

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F R P A R A T W O

E.O.11652: XGDS-3

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SUBJECT: SYG LUNS CONCERN ABOUT GREECE-TURKEY SITUATION

REFS: (A)USNATO 07061 (DTG 211147Z JUL 77), (B)USNATO
07029 (DTG 201722Z JUL 77)

1. SUMMARY: SYG LUNS CALLED IN CHARGE JULY 22 TO EXPRESS
"GREAT FEAR" THAT THE US MIGHT UNWITTINGLY BE EASING
TURKEY OUT OF THE ALLIANCE, AN EVENTUALITY WHICH WOULD
JEOPARDIZE THE POSITION OF THE WEST IN THE EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN. LUNS ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT GREEK
ARMS PURCHASES AND THEIR POSSIBLE USE AGAINST TURKEY. HE
ADDED THAT HE HAS URGED GREECE TO CONTINUE TO SEEK A
RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS SURROUNDING PARTICIPATION IN
EXERCISE DISPLAY DETERMINATION. END SUMMARY

2. PICKING UP HIS COMMENTS AT THE JULY 20 PERMREPS LUNCHEON
REGARDING RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY (REF A),
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LUNS TOLD CHARGE HE VERY MUCH FEARS THE US MIGHT UNWITTINGLY
BE EASING TURKEY OUT OF THE ALLIANCE THROUGH THE CONTINUING
CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS SUPPLIES TO ANKARA.
"SOME PEOPLE" HAD ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCE LUNS THAT THIS WAS
WASHINGTON'S INTENTION, BUT HE DISCOUNTED SUCH ARGUMENTS.
HE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT IF TURKEY WERE INDEED TO LEAVE
THE ALLIANCE, THE POSITION OF THE WEST IN THE EASTERN

MEDITERRANEAN WOULD BE ENDANGERED--PARTICULARLY SHOULD THERE BE ANOTHER ARAB-ISRAELI CLASH WHICH MIGHT TEMPT THE SOVIETS TO INTERVENE. AT PRESENT TURKEY PROVIDES A NATURAL BARRIER AND, AS LONG AS ANKARA REMAINS IN THE ALLIANCE, IT WILL NOT ALLOW THE SOVIETS TO MOVE TOO FAR IN THE REGION.

3. LUNS SAID HE IS WORRIED ABOUT THE GROWING GREEK MILITARY CAPABILITY WHICH HAS LED "INFORMED MILITARY OPINION" TO HOLD THAT GREECE IS ABLE TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK AGAINST TURKEY. HOWEVER, FROM HIS PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE WITH CARAMANLIS, AVEROFF AND BITSIOS HE "ABSOLUTELY EXCLUDED" THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESENT GREEK GOVERNMENT TAKING SUCH A RASH COURSE.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE IMBROGLIO OVER EXERCISE DISPLAY DETERMINATION (REF B), LUNS SAID HE HAD CALLED IN THE GREEK CHARGE AND URGED GREECE TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER. LUNS TOLD THE GREEK CHARGE THAT HE SYMPATHIZED WITH THE GREEK POSITION ON DISPLAY DETERMINATION BUT THOUGHT THAT ATHENS HAD BEEN TOO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT WHAT IT MIGHT ACHIEVE THROUGH ITS POSITION. A HIGH RANKING ALLIANCE OFFICER RECENTLY VISITED ATHENS IN AN ATTEMPT TO HELP RESOLVE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS, AND LUNS HAD THE IMPRESSION THE TALKS HAD NOT REPEAT NOT GONE BADLY.

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5. LUNS SAID HE THINKS GENERAL HAIG HAS DONE A SPLENDID JOB OF ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY, PARTICULARLY WITH THE MILITARY. RETURNING TO US-TURKISH RELATIONS, LUNS OBSERVED THAT HE IS WORRIED ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL INACTION ON THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH ANKARA.

6. CHARGE BRIEFLY REVIEWED US APPROACH TO GREEC-TURKEY-CYPRUS PROBLEMS EMPHASIZING THE US DESIRE TO SEE TURKEY REMAIN A FULL ALLIANCE PARTNER. HE NOTED FOR LUNS'S PRIVATE INFORMATION THAT WE ARE ENDEAVORING TO CONCLUDE SOON A DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND GREECE WHICH MIGHT FACILITATE CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE TURKISH DCA.

7. COMMENT: LUNS HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED BY THE IMPACT WHICH THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE HAS HAD ON THE ALLIANCE, WHERE MUCH TIME AND ENERGY HAS BEEN DIVERTED TO EFFORTS TO DEFUSE DISPUTES SPRINGING FROM THE ANIMOSITY OF THESE TWO ALLIES. IT IS PERHAPS NOT A COINCIDENCE THAT LUNS'S "CRIE DE COEUR" AT THE WEDNESDAY PERMREPS LUNCHEON MARKED THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION. WE

BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROXIMATE CAUSE OF LUNS'S PRESENT CONCERN IS THE STIFF REACTION OF BOTH ALLIES TO GENERAL HAIG'S ATTEMPTS TO SORT OUT A MODUS OPERANDI PERMITTING DISPLAY DETERMINATION TO PROCEED. LUNS MAY BE TURNING TO US IN THE BELIEF THAT ONLY THE UNITED STATES CAN MEANINGFULLY INFLUENCE THE SITUATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WHICH THREATEN THE VIABILITY OF THE SOUTH-EASTERN REGION OF THE ALLIANCE.

8. PLEASE PASS TO APPROPRIATE MILITARY ADDRESSEES. PEREZ

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